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Recommendation for funding for a short-duration country programme**

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Summary

The present document contains a recommendation for funding from regular resources and other resources for the country programme of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with a duration of three years. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the amount of $1,836,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $9,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2002 to 2004.

* E/ICEF/2001/P/L.12.

** The figures provided in the present document are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 2000. They will be contained in the summary of recommendations for regular resources and other resources programmes for 2001 (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.73).

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Basic data [a] *(1999 unless otherwise stated)*	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	0.6
U5MR (per 1,000 live births) (2000)	26
IMR (per 1,000 live births) (2000)	22
Underweight (% moderate and severe)	6
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) (1998)	3
Literacy (% male/female) (1994)	97/91
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female) (1997)	97/96
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%) (1995)	95
Use of improved drinking water sources (%)	99
Routine EPI vaccines financed by Government (%)	9
GNP per capita (US$)	1 660
One-year-olds fully immunized against:	
Tuberculosis	99 per cent
Diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus	98 per cent
Measles	92 per cent
Poliomyelitis	98 per cent
Pregnant women immunized against tetanus	.. per cent

[a] Excerpted from the publication "Progress since the World Summit for Children: A statistical review", prepared as a supplement to the Secretary-General's report "We the children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children" (A/S-27/3), and therefore may differ from data contained in the text of this document.

The situation of children and women

1. Most indicators of child welfare have been positive in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the 10 years since independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991. The under-five mortality rate dropped from 41 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 26 in 1999. Exclusive breastfeeding rates increased to four months from 8 per cent in 1994 to 42 per cent in 1999, and iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) were eliminated. Enrolment in secondary education grew from 74 per cent in 1992 to 85 per cent in 1999, mostly among minorities, while primary enrolment was sustained at 95 per cent. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was given impetus by the Government's appointment of an independent Ombudsperson for Children in 1999.

2. This progress took place despite the steep economic decline in the six years following independence. The downward economic trend was reversed towards the end of the decade, and positive economic growth rates of nearly 3 and slightly more than 5 per cent were recorded in 1999 and 2000, respectively. However, the benefits were not evenly distributed, with citizens confronted by an unemployment rate of 32 per cent in 2001. Poverty has risen from 4 per cent in 1991 to 21 per cent in 2000, as measured by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development norms.

3. At 70 per cent, youth unemployment is by far the highest in the Central and Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic States region, while youth crime is the second highest. There was a 230 per cent increase in intravenous drug use between 1995 and 2000, mostly among the 15- to 25-year-old age group, which could lead to an explosion in what are still relatively low rates of HIV/AIDS. School enrolments are relatively high, but access remains a problem for girls in minority communities. The quality of education is a concern, and much work remains to be done on the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream classes. Only 12 per cent of pre-school children are enrolled in formal kindergartens, and while non-formal community-based alternatives are helping to expand coverage, there is a lack of state funding to consolidate the gains. In health care, the standards of post-natal services have improved dramatically, in line with the expansion in the number of baby-friendly hospitals; however, antenatal care and childbirth practices still require extensive upgrading. Other emerging issues include trafficking in girls and young women, child abuse and domestic violence.

4. Since early 2001, the Government has been challenged by armed ethnic Albanian groups demanding increased rights for the ethnic Albanian minority in the country. In spite of the formation of a broad coalition Government, embracing the main Macedonian and Albanian political parties, hostilities in the north and north-west of the country continued into the summer, leading to the displacement of approximately 140,000 people. About one half of the displaced population sought refuge in Kosovo, while the other half are internally displaced, accommodated in collective centres and with host families within The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

5. Negotiations to develop a political solution to the conflict resulted in a cease-fire and a political framework agreement in September, which, it is hoped, will further stabilize the security situation and allow for the return of refugees and the internally displaced. None the less, the fragile political and security environment, including reported human rights violations, may continue to jeopardize the rights of all conflict-affected children and their families.

Programme cooperation, 1999-2001

6. The 1999-2001 country programme (E/ICEF/1998/P/L.38) had three components: primary health care (PHC); education; and child protection. Funding was largely from regular resources initially; but the Kosovo crisis brought a generous donor response through the United Nations Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP).

7. In the area of PHC, the main success was the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. In 1999, there were no baby-friendly hospitals in the country, but by mid-2001, 27 out of 29 maternity hospitals in the country were certified as baby-friendly. The care and development of infants under one year old were further strengthened through the revitalization of the patronage nursing system, which provides for five home visits by an outreach nurse in the first 12 months of life. The elimination of IDD was attained with UNICEF support. Assistance in health education ranged from the empowerment of poor rural communities to the prevention of HIV/AIDS among young people.

8. In education, the interactive learning programme, which was designed to improve the quality of education, moved from the pilot phase to full coverage of all primary schools in the country. A functional literacy programme, focusing on women in deprived communities, was initiated in conjunction with a project to reduce drop-outs and increase enrolments, especially among Roma girls. Another pilot, which moved substantially to scale, was the "Lifestart" programme, a better parenting alternative to formal pre-school education. Lifestart, which covers the social, intellectual, psychological, emotional and physical aspects of a child's development, moved from small beginnings to cover 35 per cent of 0- to 5-year-olds in 2001. UNICEF also worked with the Ministry of Education to add a reception year onto the primary school cycle. This brought the 30 per cent of six-year-olds who were previously excluded into the school cycle a year earlier. Young people's development was supported through 23 new youth centres run by local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) around themes of peace and tolerance, and language and computer skills.

9. In the field of child protection, UNICEF supported projects which saw a 5 per cent drop in the number of children in public care as gains were made in developing alternatives to institutions. In the area of legal protection, UNICEF supported a comprehensive review of legislation for compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which led to a set of recommendations for governmental action. Two street children projects were assisted, and a plan for improving juvenile justice was supported.

10. Promoting the Convention on the Rights of the Child was a constant feature of the programme period, with widespread training of teachers, caregivers and social workers, and activities such as school art competitions and support to an NGO Child Rights Coalition. Breaking the cycle of poverty in depressed suburban areas was addressed through a first-ever area-based project designed to get all children into school.

11. Building on experience from the 1999 Kosovo refugee crisis, UNICEF became the lead agency for education and psychosocial support, as well as humanitarian water and sanitation, during the crisis in the country in 2001. To ensure a coherent and even-handed approach in promoting the rights of all children in the prevailing ethnic conflict situation, regular programme activities were combined with emergency interventions aimed at meeting the special needs of all war-affected children.

Lessons learned from past cooperation

12. An important lesson was that appropriate legislation can be a powerful means to achieve goals for children. Thus, the elimination of IDD was essentially achieved through the passage and implementation of legislation on salt iodization. Another lesson is that careful targeting of resources can lead to significant progress for children even when the economy is not performing. In this regard, the infusion of CAP funding enabled a number of small-scale projects to move rapidly to scale. The main lesson from the Kosovo and Macedonian crises was that getting children into school, no matter how makeshift, not only continued the children's education, but also played a major role in helping them cope with the psychosocial pressure of displacement.

Recommended programme cooperation, 2002-2004

	Estimated annual expenditure (In thousands of United States dollars)			
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*Total*
Regular resources				
Early childhood development	170	170	170	510
Education and youth development	170	170	170	510
Child protection	130	130	130	390
Advocacy and social mobilization	50	50	50	150
Cross-sectoral costs	92	92	92	276
Subtotal	**612**	**612**	**612**	**1 836**
Other resources				
Early childhood development	800	800	800	2 400
Education and youth development	800	800	800	2 400
Child protection	700	700	700	2 100
Advocacy and social mobilization	400	400	400	1 200
Cross-sectoral costs	300	300	300	900
Subtotal	**3 000**	**3 000**	**3 000**	**9 000**
Total	**3 612**	**3 612**	**3 612**	**10 836**

Country programme preparation process

13. Programme planning began with a situation analysis of children and families in the last quarter of 2000, followed by a mid-term review (MTR) and a strategy meeting with government partners. Studies, such as the multiple indicator cluster survey, carried out in 1999, and various project evaluations, also contributed to the process. Emergency preparedness planning in 2001 was carried out in close consultation with United Nations agencies and the UNICEF Area Office for the Balkans. The programming environment will change in line with the evolving political arrangements provided for in the European Union-brokered Framework Agreement, and UNICEF will use the annual review and MTR processes to modify proposed activities to respond as needed to such changes.

Country programme goals and objectives

14. The overall goal is to contribute to the full realization of children's rights through a life cycle approach in which key outcomes will be sought in early childhood, basic education and youth development. There are four main programme components: early childhood development (ECD); education and youth development; child protection; and advocacy and social mobilization.

15. In ECD, the objective will be to ensure that all children under one year of age are covered by outreach health and development services and, thereafter, have

access to affordable early childhood programmes in their communities. In education, the aim is to consolidate the gains in quality and to promote full access to basic education, especially for girls, minorities and children with disabilities. Youth development will seek to provide all youth with better chances to realize their potential and to avoid HIV/AIDS. Child protection aims primarily to support government efforts to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and to strengthen services for vulnerable groups in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners. Advocacy and social mobilization will strive to build on the Global Movement for Children and to strengthen alliances for the promotion of child rights.

Relation to national and international priorities

16. The international community, including major bilateral donors, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank all support current government priorities to devolve more responsibility to local authorities for social services. This ties in with the UNICEF strategic focus on strengthening services at the local level. The Government has formed a National Commission on Child Rights tasked with the formulation of a plan of action to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The country programme objectives are consistent with the evolving organizational priorities of UNICEF.

Programme strategy

17. The programme strategy aims to use the close working relationship of UNICEF with the Government and other partners to stimulate action for children's rights. In this context, advocacy for policy and legislative change will be important. The theme of equal rights will see a strategic focus on excluded children, such as those with disabilities or living in pockets of poverty. Capacity-building and empowering families and communities with the knowledge required for a better life will be key; so too will the strengthening of relations with local authorities and community organizations, support to child rights networks and the promotion of gender awareness. Emergency preparedness and response through CAP will complement the programme strategy. Emergency response activities are in the main complementary to those of the country programme. Additionally, UNICEF has played an emergency coordinating role in the water and environmental sanitation sector for activities directed towards those affected by the conflict in the country.

18. **Early childhood development**. Sustaining the baby-friendly hospital status of all maternity units in the country will be a feature of this component, as well as the outreach nursing system which aims to provide five home visits in the first year of a baby's life. Emphasis will also be placed on antenatal care and better delivery practices. UNICEF will gradually phase out support to the expanded programme on immunization in line with the government target for self-sufficiency in vaccines by 2005. Health promotion activities will be undertaken with a special focus on poorer communities and regions with high infant mortality rates. In nutrition, the focus will be on the maintenance of IDD elimination. The "Lifestart" programme will aim to boost coverage for one- to four-year-olds from 35 per cent to universal access by the end of the cycle.

19. **Education and youth development**. At the primary school level, expansion of the cycle to nine years will be consolidated, and the interactive learning method as the key to improved quality will be supported in all schools. Training will be provided to all schools in inclusive practices for children with learning disabilities, and strategies to boost enrolment among children in deprived communities will be pursued. At the secondary level, a life skills curriculum and HIV/AIDS prevention will be promoted. Life skills, human rights education, languages and information technology will feature in a project designed to make youth-friendly spaces available to adolescents. Policies to increase girls' education, especially at the secondary level, will be supported, and literacy programmes for women and girls in poor communities will continue. A peace and tolerance and child rights curriculum will reach all primary and secondary schools during the programme period. Support for education and youth policy reform processes will aim to further social inclusion and equity.

20. **Child protection**. This component will promote implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as it applies to the most vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, children living on the streets and those in need of psychosocial support resulting from discrimination, exploitation, abuse, violence and neglect. A feature of the programme will be the continuation of efforts to develop adoption, day-care and community support services. Improving the system of juvenile justice will also be supported, along with advocacy for appropriate legal and policy reform in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

21. **Advocacy and social mobilization**. This component will build on the momentum of the Global Movement for Children by mobilizing partnerships and coalitions around implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNICEF will also work with the media to promote children's issues and bring the principles of the Convention into every home in the country. Cultivating journalistic practices sensitive to and supportive of children's rights will also be important.

22. **Cross-sectoral costs** will cover operations, supply and security support. They also include provision for contingency supplies to be kept in stock to enable a rapid response to humanitarian crises.

Monitoring and evaluation

23. All programmes will be supported by an integrated monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure results-based management and impact assessment. Continuous improvement of data collection, analysis and disaggregation, as well as follow-up on the observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, will be ensured. Strategic evaluations will be conducted in all four programmes to document progress towards the key outcomes. Monitoring and evaluation will conclude with an end-of-cycle review in 2005.

Collaboration with partners

24. UNICEF will continue its close cooperation with other United Nations agencies present in the country, as well as its excellent collaboration with the World Bank, which contributed $2,000,000 to UNICEF through its post-conflict grant

facility. Cooperation will be strengthened with other donor missions, including the European Union, which is both a donor and programme partner. Special emphasis will be placed on further strengthening close working relationships with local NGOs. Close collaboration within the framework of the Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness Plan will ensure a rapid response in emergencies.

Programme management

25. The programme will be managed by the UNICEF country office in Skopje, headed by an assistant representative with support from the Area Office for the Balkans, which provides additional capacity in advocacy, policy, programme development and security support.

TABLE

COUNTRY : TFYR OF MACEDONIA
PROGRAME : 2002-2004

LINKAGE OF PROGRAMME BUDGET AND STAFFING/STAFF COSTS

PROGRAMME SECTION/AREAS AND FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAMME BUDGET			POSTS a/										STAFF COSTS b/		
	RR	OR	TOTAL	D2/L7	D1/L6	P/L5	P/L4	P/L3	P/L2	IP	NP	GS	TOTAL	IP	LOCAL	TOTAL
REGULAR RESOURCES :																
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	510,000		510,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	59,922	59,922
EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	510,000		510,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	170,183	170,183
CHILD PROTECTION	390,000		390,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CROSS-SECTORAL COSTS	276,000		276,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	59,922	59,922
ADVOCACY & SOCIAL MOBILIZATION	150,000		150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL RR	1,836,000		1,836,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	290,027	290,027
OTHER RESOURCES :																
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT		2,400,000	2,400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	110,261	110,261
EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT		2,400,000	2,400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHILD PROTECTION		2,100,000	2,100,000	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	351,195	59,922	411,117
CROSS-SECTORAL COSTS		900,000	900,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	98,445	98,445
ADVOCACY & SOCIAL MOBILIZATION		1,200,000	1,200,000	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	351,195	59,922	411,117
TOTAL OR		9,000,000	9,000,000	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	4	7	702,390	328,550	1,030,940
TOTAL RR & OR	1,836,000	9,000,000	10,836,000	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	7	11	702,390	618,577	1,320,967
SUPPORT BUDGET	Operating costs		317,000													
	Staffing			0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	5	470,974	280,686	751,660
GRAND TOTAL (RR + OR + SB)				0	0	0	1	2	0	3	3	10	16	1,173,364	899,263	2,072,627
Number of posts and staff costs:																
Current programme cycle										5	2	7	14			
At the end of proposed programme cycle (indicative only)										3	3	10	16	1,173,364	899,263	2,072,627

RR = regular resources.
OR = other resources.
IP = international Professional.
NP = national Professional.
GS = General Service.
SB = support budget.

a/ Each post, regardless of its funding source, supports the country programme as a whole.
b/ Excludes temporary assistance and overtime.